Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—So it is a wrong answer.

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—Not quite complete.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Is not the author the best critic of his work?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—Criticisms may be of two kinds, destructive and constructive.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know the names of those who were on the committee to determine the par excellence of the poetry contained in these books?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—The President himself and myself also was one of them. I found that the poems were exceedingly good. In fact the poems appealed to me very much. I must say that.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Was it read out and acted there?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—I wanted him to do that in certain cases but it was not done.

Poetry books for Primary classes—author—member of Board of Studies.

394. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) who is the author of the poetry books prescribed for use in the Primary classes of the State schools from 1108 Edavam;

(b) whether the author is a Member both of the Text Book Committee and the Board of Studies;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, did the author take part in the meeting which approved and prescribed these books for use in schools?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—(a) Mr. K. P. Karuppan, Superintendent of Vernacular Education, is the compiler of the poetry books.

(b) He is a member of the Board of Studies only.

(c) He took part only in the meeting of the Board of Studies which recommended to Government the prescription of text books for use in schools.

Casualities in the Nelliampathi Estates—prevalence of indentured labour in the Estates.

395. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they are aware that there had been great number of casualities recently in one of the Estates on the Nelliampathi Hills?

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(b) if so, did the Government make any enquiry; if so, with what result; if not, why not ;

(c) is it a fact that a kind of indentured labour is in vogue in the estates on these Hills ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. Due to heavy rains, about 70 people are reported to have died from fever and dysentery in the Lily Group Estates.

(c) Government have no information.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Is there any truth in the rumour that these people died of indentation?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There is no report to that effect.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Did the Government remember that they said some time before that only 4 measures were given for Re. 1 ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I don't remember. I want notice.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Do not the Government think that 4 measures for a rupee is a very high price?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Government are not concerned with that. These are labourers working in the estate. There is a contract between them. They get wages according to the contract rates. I do not know how the Government could enquire into these details.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Have not the Government an obligation to protect the interests of these people?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—They have an obligation.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Did you make any enquiries as to whether they were given any medical help? 70 people died of dysentery and fever due to bad weather. Did the Government render any medical aid to these poor people in the hills?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Government have no information. I want notice.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—The Government have no information about what? Did the Government find out whether there was any truth in the allegation which is a very serious allegation? These people are treated like slaves. Did you make any enquiry about it?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The estate itself has got a hospital and all these people were treated there.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Managed by whom?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—By the estate.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Did you make any enquiries as to whether these people were treated as indentured coolies, i. e., a euphemistic term for slavery?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The District Magistrate enquired into the matter and reported that there was no information that these people were treated as indentured coolies.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Is it not a part of the Government's duties to protect these humble coolies?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—That we don't deny.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—After hearing this allegation did the Government take any action to ascertain whether it is true or not?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—This report was received in answer to this question.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Were they treated properly?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There is a hospital there and all these people were treated in that hospital.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Did the Government make any enquiry about the conditions of work and conditions of living? Is it not part of your duty?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The information that I gave now is from a report received on the basis of an enquiry conducted after receiving this very question.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Are the Government quite satisfied with that report?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I think this report is true and correct.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Are they satisfied that their responsibility is over?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I don't quite follow the intention of the question.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—The allegations are that these people are treated like slaves. Are they indentured coolies? That is the point. I don't want this sort of quibbling.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I have given the information available. If any other information is required about the treatment of these people, the wages they receive, and the conditions under which they work, the Government will be too glad to obtain that information and supply it to the House.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Why did not the conscience of the Government prick and why did they not make further enquiries?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—What further enquiries are required? The reply to the question is supplied and from the report it is seen that there is nothing further to suspect. If the Hon'ble Member thinks that further enquiries are necessary we will only be too glad to make them and get the information.

Dr. A. R. Menon—Is the Government unable to take any initiative without the persuasion of this House?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The report is absolutely clear on the point. Without any suspicion there is no necessity for further enquiries.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Did the Government enquire the cause of this high mortality?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—We enquired.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Who?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The District Magistrate.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Did the District Magistrate merely inquire of the authorities of the estate or did he look into the registers? Was there a report from the doctor?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There was no report from the doctor.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Does the Government dispute the necessity for further enquiry?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Unless there is no further allegation I do not think there is any need for a further enquiry.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What further allegation is needed? Seventy persons have died. It is said they have died of fever and dysentery and on account of the bad weather. These people are put on the hills 17 miles off. They cannot come down and they cannot get anything. Proper wages are not given to them for their labour except a few morsel of rice. I feel ashamed of any such thing. I know the place very well and I know the conditions existing there. I say that these people are treated like slaves, worse than slaves.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—May I know the total number of coolies in the estate?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I have not got any information on the point at present.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—With regard to the report I had asked one question. There was no allegation that there was indentured labour. But the question was whether the coolies were treated as indentured labourers?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I answered that.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—The question is whether the Government is satisfied with this evasive report.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The member will please read the question. No such point is raised there. If any further information is required Government will be only too glad to enquire again.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is it a fact that indentured labour is in vogue?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government have no information.

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Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know whether any inquiry was made to answer this question and whether in the course of their inquiry any information has reached them to show that there is indentured labour?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There is no indentured labour.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know whether they have got a well-equipped hospital there?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There is a hospital there. It is not reported that it is ill-equipped. If it is not ill-equipped it must be well-equipped.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—The question is whether it is a fact that a kind of indentured labour is in vogue. I have never said that it is in vogue. I put that question to show that these people were not allowed to come down or even to go to their homes.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—If there is no specific question how can we answer?

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—In view of these proceedings will the Government be pleased to call for further information as to the terms of wages, conditions of labour and service etc?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is it a fact that these people are not allowed te come down the hills?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I know that. It is a fact.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Did the District Magistrate go andenquire of the servants of the estate? Did he go to the spot?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to read the report from the District Magistrate?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It runs thus: "The number of casualities is reported to be about 70. The victims are new-comers from Maucheri, Malappuram and other places and all of them are Muslims. The cause of their deaths is reported to be Fever and Dysentry on account of the heavy rains. There is a Hospital attached to the Estate in which the sick persons of the Estate are generally treated.

The Coolies are paid daily wages at the rate of 7 as. for every adult male, 5 as. for every adult female, and 3 as to the children in addition to the rice required for their daily consumption. Instead of paying the wages daily, the coolies are paid a few annas every week and the balance due to them at the end of 9 months. They are also provided with huts to live in and cumblies to protect them from cold.

There is no information as to how the labourers were brought to the Estates by contract or otherwise".

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Were there any minors among them?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I want notice.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Has the Government any information as to who manages the estate?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—By the planters there.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Are not all these estates managed by a single person?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Was there any qualified doctor in that hospital?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I want notice.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know, Sir, whether these incidents have occurred in one estate or in all estates?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is a group of estates called 'The Lily Group of Estates'.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know the period during which this death has occurred?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I want notice.

Arrear pay of staff of the Maharaja's College.

396. **Mr. P. C. Virkkey.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

1. whether the arrear pay after the revision of 1105 has been disbursed to all the persons employed in the Maharaja's College ;

2. if not, who are the persons to whom arrear pay has not been given yet and the reasons for the extraordinary delay?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—Yes, to all except the menial staff of the College. But the revision in their case took effect not in 1105 but from Edavam 1106 only.

2. Certain irregularities in the pay of these people have been brought to notice. The matter is being looked into.

Admission of Muslim Students in the Maharaja's College.

397. **Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.**—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) the names of the Muslim students who applied for admission to the Junior Intermediate class and the Junior B. A. class of the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam ;

(b) the number of marks obtained by them in various subjects ;

(c) the minimum number of marks prescribed by the College authorities in various subjects as being necessary to qualify a student for admission to these classes ;

(d) the names of students who were given admission ?

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